The Role of U.S. Ties in Refugee Resettlement

Refugees coming to the United States through the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) have the opportunity to identify a U.S. tie with the Resettlement Support Center that is assisting with their case processing. Separate from and unlike an official anchor who files an Affidavit of Relationship, an I-730 petition, or in some cases an approved I-130 petition, refugees may choose to identify any individual, regardless of relationship, as a U.S. tie near whom they would like to be resettled. There is no requirement for refugees to identify any U.S. ties during overseas case processing. However, if one is identified, it is important for both refugees and U.S. ties to understand the role of a U.S. tie in the resettlement of refugees in the United States.

WHAT IS A U.S. TIE?
Refugees resettling to the United States can identify friends or relatives already living in the United States with whom they wish to be reunited upon arrival. Once identified, those individuals are contacted by a Resettlement Agency to confirm if they would like to have the refugees resettled nearby. If they agree, these individuals are considered U.S. ties. The Resettlement Agency will not share refugees’ personal details, such as medical information, with their U.S. tie. However, they will coordinate with the U.S. tie to prepare for the refugees’ arrival in the U.S.

U.S. ties are not financially nor legally responsible for their newly arriving refugee friends or relatives. However, they can play a helpful role in the refugee resettlement process by supporting the resettlement experience of their friends or relatives in collaboration with the Resettlement Agency. It is important to remember that the goal for refugees, with the assistance of the Resettlement Agency, is to achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States.

WHAT IS A RESETTLEMENT AGENCY?
A Resettlement Agency is a non-profit organization that cooperates with the United States Government in a public-private partnership to assist refugees who come to the United States through the USRAP. The United States Government sets guidelines and provides partial funding for the required core services that refugees receive through the Reception and Placement (R&P) program. Resettlement Agencies are responsible for delivering these services and provide critical support to refugees and their families during their first months in the United States. To learn more about the Resettlement Agency, visit the CORE Resettlement Navigator website at www.corenav.org.
Below are facts about refugee resettlement to the United States most relevant for refugees with U.S. ties. To learn more about the USRAP and life in the United States, visit the CORE Resettlement Navigator website at corenav.org. This website provides clear, accurate, and up-to-date information for refugees and those who assist with their resettlement to the United States.

- The guidelines set by the United States Government for the USRAP can change every year and as a result impact the services and assistance provided by Resettlement Agencies to refugees. Thus, the core resettlement services received by former refugees, who may later be U.S. ties, can be different from the services provided to newly arriving refugees.

- The Resettlement Agency must document completion of required core services which includes confirming any services that U.S. ties provide. This is why U.S. ties may be asked to sign a document regarding the services they provide. However, U.S. ties are not obligated to provide any of the required core services.

- Often, U.S. ties are happy to be involved in helping with the resettlement of their newly arriving refugee friends and relatives, whether it’s having them live in their homes, taking them to appointments, or simply providing emotional and social support. If U.S. ties are reporting their volunteer hours to the Resettlement Agency, they should confirm with Resettlement Agency staff to see what activities may be counted as volunteer support.

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For more information, visit the CORE Resettlement Navigator website at corenav.org.